

YOU MAY JOIN US

by

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for IMPACT50

1. EXT. SMALL DWELLING, SMALL LAWN IN SMALL BACK YARD - DAY

NIAN ZHEN (6) is carefully teaching her doll TAYLOR to climb a small shrub. Through the fence we see her neighbour ALIF (2/3) playing with a spoon in the soil of his yard.

NIAN

One step... here, Taylor...This one

NIAN taps a small branch above TAYLOR's head and lifts TAYLOR's arm onto it.

ALIF

Nian! Nian!

NIAN

Shush, Alif. (To TAYLOR) Hold tight, now - blank him...

ALIF

Nian! Dig! Alif dig! Nian!(or
improvise)

NIAN gives ALIF the briefest of glances as she helps TAYLOR pull herself onto a branch.

MEI LING (O.S. LOUDLY, FROM INSIDE)

Wai! Wai! Turn on the telly!

WAI YONG (O.S.)

What!

MEI LING (O.S.)

THE TELLY TURN IT ON!

Hearing this, NIAN helps TAYLOR down, and trots to the BACK DOOR.

2. INT. DOORWAY, LOOKING INTO SMALL LIVING ROOM - DAY

NIAN, cuddling TAYLOR, is watching the TV from behind her PARENTS. MEI LING and WAI YONG. A running strap indicates that this is a REPEAT, at around "Nothing will survive..."

MEI LING

Jiang Whatsapped me.

WAI YONG

Is it true?

PARENTS look at each other, then at the screen, transfixed and unable to move. Still unnoticed, NIAN turns away.

3. INT./EXT. DWELLING: MONTAGE OF DIFFERENT AREAS - DAY

NIAN is collecting DOLLS, TEDDIES, etc., plus an adult-type tripod telescope. She brings them to the YARD, then flies around the little lawn, dolls in arms, at speed. Watching from a window. WAI moves to go out, but MEI deters him.

NIAN (EXCITEDLY, AS THE METEOR)
 Faster, faster, faster, let's hit
 that Earth! Look at it - bigger,
 bigger, bigger, let's whack it now!
 Faster... Faster! Whack the Earth!
 Whack the Earth! Crash it! Bang it!

ALIF is looking through the fence, crying.

4. EXT. YARD - DAY

NIAN, with TAYLOR, is pulling ALIF over the fence.

NIAN
 Hold tight now, Alif.

5. EXT. YARD - DAY (LATER)

A tablecloth on the lawn with crockery (not posh), cakes and the telescope. Some DOLLS are propped to gaze at 45%. TEDDY lies flat, looking straight up. NIAN cuddles ALIF as she holds MONKEY to the telescope's eyepiece.

NIAN
 Any sign yet, Monkey? Alif, can
 Monkey see it? ... Don't stare at
 the sun, Teddy, you'll go blind.

As NIAN passes TEDDY backwards, the CAMERA reveals PARENTS sitting just behind to receive him. TAYLOR and other DOLLS already surround them. NIAN helps ALIF to the eyepiece.

MRS NABI (O.S., DISTRESSED)
 Alif! Alif!... Alif!

MEI LING
 He's over here, Mrs Nabi.

MRS NABI appears behind the fence, obviously just aroused from sleep, and clutching her mobile.

NIAN
 Mrs Nabi! We're going to watch the
 show. It'll be splendiferous... You
 may join us.

(CONTINUED)

PRODUCTION NOTES

Since you will be working with very young children, be prepared to accept any kind of vocal improvisation as long as it fits the tone, the relationships and the action.

If the actor playing NIAN ZHEN can speak one of Mandarin/Cantonese/Hakka, etc. and that playing ALIF can speak one of Malay/Arabic/Urdu, etc., consider encouraging them to do so.

You may - or should - alter the names to fit the casting.

Consider recording a V.O. in an appropriate language to run over the President's address.

The intensity and tone of the background atmos & FX, including wailing, shouting, tyre screech and other FX will vary according to the positioning of the various episodes of this story on the timeline. Hence, I suggest you record some alternative tracks for decision in the assembly edit.

Somewhere within the mises en scene, please find a way of indicating that this household is astronomically literate (in an amateur way).

For the final assembly, scenes 1 & 2 might be run together, but 3,4 and 5 should be separated along the timeline.

If this script is adopted, consider a final scene with the two families plus dolls cuddled together as WAI YONG monitors and counts down the meteor; or the whole group reflecting the initial pyrotechnics.

No Hollywood sentimentality or child cruelty, please!

PR.